

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON PARTICIPATION IN IEP

1. A CONVERSATION WITH BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, AND A STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES HAVE PROVIDED FURTHER INDICATION OF FRENCH THINKING ON PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN BRUNET SAID FOLLOWING POINTS WERE PARAMOUNT IN FRENCH THINKING ON ENERGY COOPERATION: A) NONE OF THE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS BEING
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CONTEMPLATED SHOULD BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OF THE EC ENERGY

PLAN. B) THE PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS OF THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM SHOULD BE ON INCREASED PRODUCTION AND DEMAND RESTRAINT. C) IT IS ILLUSORY TO EXPECT ANY ROLLBACK OF PRICES. THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS MUST MAKE A MASSIVE EFFORT OF READJUSTMENT TO THE NEW SITUATION CREATED BY THE QUADRUPLING OF OIL PRICES.

3. BRUNET SAID GOF HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE IEP. AS HE SAW IT, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS FOR THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES TO CUT BACK ON CONSUMPTION AND ON IMPORTS. IF THEY DID THIS, THEN THEY WOULD NOT NEED A BIG NEW ENERGY AGENCY. ALL THEY WOULD NEED WOULD BE A PLACE TO WHICH THEY COULD PERIODICALLY REPORT THEIR PROGRESS IN DEMAND RESTRAINT IN ORDER THAT "DELINQUENTS MIGHT BE PUT TO SHAME." FOR THIS THE EXISTING COMMITTEES OF THE OECD WERE ADEQUATE.

4. BRUNET ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BRING ABOUT AN EARLY MEETING OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE GISCARD TO WRITE LETTERS TO PRESIDENT FORD AND BOUMEDIENNE SUGGESTING THAT YAMANI'S PROPOSAL FOR A MINI OIL CONFERENCE BE TAKEN UP.

5. IN PARALLEL VEIN FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES, SPEAKING BEFORE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OCTOBER 10, NOTED THAT GENERAL US-EC CONSULTATIONS WERE WORKING WELL IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, BUT THAT EC STILL NEEDED TO DEVELOP COMMON ENERGY POSITION BASED ON ITS OWN INTERESTS. HE OBSERVED THAT, IF EC HAD BEEN ABLE DEVELOP COMMON ENERGY POLICY PRIOR TO RECENT WASHINGTON MEETINGS, IT COULD HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED AS A BODY RATHER THAN HAVING ITS MEMBERS SPEAKING INDIVIDUALLY. SAUVAGNARGUES DESCRIBED FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARDS COOPERATION BETWEEN OIL CONSUMERS AS FOLLOWS:"WE DO NOT WISH TO FORM A COMMON FRONT ON THE BASIS OF A WAR ECONOMY, BUT WE DO WANT A COMMON ENERGY POLICY AND A DIALOGUE WITH THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES -- WITHOUT, HOWEVER, LOSING SIGHT OF THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM FOR EUROPE.

IRWIN

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